

The 63rd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – March 13, 2002)

1. The 63rd meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held in the ECO Secretariat on Wednesday March 13, 2002, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazan Zaripovitch, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as ECO Secretary General alongwith ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at ***Annex-I***.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

CPR adopted the proposed agenda with some additions. The adopted agenda is placed at ***Annex-II***.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 62nd meeting of CPR

CPR deferred this agenda item to its 64th meeting for discussion and adoption.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparations for the 12th COM and 7th ECO Summit meetings

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the Council that Turkey would host the 12th Council of Ministers (COM) and 7th ECO Summit Meetings on the following dates:

- Senior Officials meeting (SOM): October 9-10, 2002 (Wed. & Thu);
- 12th COM meeting: October 12, 2002 (Saturday);
- 7th ECO Summit meeting: October 14, 2002 (Monday).

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey also, while noting that 7th Summit Meeting would coincide with the 10th Anniversary of ECO's enlargement to a ten-Member States' Organization, reiterated his Government's desire that all Heads of State, Foreign Ministers and relevant officials would participate in the said meetings.

Agenda Item No. 4

Preparations for the 3rd meeting of Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO)

Permanent Representative of IR of Iran informed the Council that Iran will host the 3rd meeting of WGSO and pointed out the date of the meeting would be intimated to the Secretariat well in advance so that Member States may have enough time to confirm their participation.

Agenda Item No. 5Matters pertaining to ECO Shipping Company (ESC)

CPR asked the Secretariat to take necessary action to establish the Committee envisaged by the decision of the 3rd ECO Ministerial meeting on Transport & Communications held in Islamabad on April 27-28, 2000 (paragraph 28 of its report refers), report of which had already been approved by the 10th COM.

Agenda Item No. 6Cooperation between ECO and Free Trade Zones of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IR of Iran proposed to host one of the next CPR meetings in Chahbahar provided that the agenda of the CPR would include a presentation on Free Trade Zones in Iran.

CPR asked the Secretariat to work on the proposal together with the host and report to the CPR at its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7Meeting to inform CPR on Free Trade Zones in Member States

CPR agreed with the proposal of the Permanent Representative of Republic of Turkey to have presentation on Free Trade Zones during the next CPR meeting. In this regard, CPR welcomed the offers of the Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Turkey to make presentations on Free Trade Zones in the respective member countries during the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8Conference on “Reconstruction of Afghanistan”**Agenda Item No. 9**Assistance in Reconstruction of Afghanistan

CPR, in its 63rd session, discussed the Agenda Item No. 8 (Conference on Reconstruction of Afghanistan) and No. 9 (Assistance in Reconstruction of Afghanistan) together and decided to defer these items to its next session. However, CPR agreed to hold consultations with the new Ambassador of the Interim Government of Afghanistan regarding the involvement of ECO in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan. Moreover, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, while explaining his country's views on the reconstruction of Afghanistan, presented a paper titled “Turkish views on the Reconstruction of Afghanistan and Reintegration of this country into the ECO Regional Activities” which was also circulated to the Member States by the Secretariat's Note No. CON/64th CPR/2002.46 dated 7 April, 2002. A copy of the said paper is placed at **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No. 10Issues pertaining to ECO Passenger Train

The Permanent Representative of IR of Iran emphasized the need to reduce the transit visa fee for users of ECO passenger train. CPR decided that since the issue would need consideration in capitals of Member States, the matter should be discussed in next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11

Implementation of Economic Cooperation Strategy for ECO Region (Strategic Paper by the Secretariat)

CPR appreciated the Secretariat for preparing the Strategic Paper on the subject and asked Member States to furnish their views thereupon to the Secretariat as soon as possible. CPR would deliberate on the said paper in the light of the views of Member States at its next meeting and give its decision. CPR also decided that the subject would be included in the agenda of the 3rd WGSO and 12th COM meetings.

Agenda Item No. 12

Consideration of draft MOU with UN-ECE

Since some Member States were still awaiting views from their capitals on the draft MOU circulated on March 10, 2002, CPR decided to defer this item to its next meeting. The Secretariat was requested to integrate the views of Member States and circulate the consolidated document again for discussion and a decision in the next CPR.

Agenda Item No. 13

ECO Awards

CPR, while extending the deadline for nominations for ECO Awards till the end of April 2002, recalled that nominations would have to be made through respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States. CPR requested Secretariat to prepare an informative note on the formation of the selection panel who would select excellent works for award.

CPR also agreed to take-up the matter again in next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 14

Administrative matters

- i. Appointment for the posts of two Programme Officers (Trade & Investment and Economic Research & Statistics), (Cat. 2, P3)
- ii. Appointment for the post of Russian Translator (Category-II, P.2)

CPR decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Kubat Umurzakov, Programme Officer (Directorate of Trade & Investment) and Mr. Fazli Sak, Programme Officer (Directorate of Economic Research & Statistics) from April 3, 2002 and Ms. Gulnara Kanafina, Russian Translator from March 16, 2002 for three months with an understanding that in the meantime the selection procedures for the said posts would be completed.

Agenda Item No. 15

Any other business

Secretary General urged the new Member States to pay their outstanding contributions for the budget of ECO Secretariat for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 as early as possible.

Agenda Item No. 16

Date of next Meeting

CPR decided that its next meeting be held at 1000 hours between May 5 and 8, 2002. Secretariat was requested to determine the exact date with consultation with Member States.